

Grand, La Have, and George's Banks arrive in good order, and report rough weather, but not severe or anything like what it was near land.

The gill-net fishermen were severe sufferers by the storm, and it is the first time since the introduction of the gill-nets that they have met with any serious loss. Twelve sail report a loss of 132 nets, with anchors, buoys, &c., of the aggregate value of \$2,658. Most of the nets lost were off Half-way Rock, on rocky bottom, in 24 fathoms; in Ipswich Bay a few were lost, on smooth bottom, in 15 fathoms; others in 30 fathoms were not damaged.

Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in November, 1885.

From—	Fares.	Mack-	Codfish.	Halibut.	Pollock.	Hake.	Haddock.	Cusk.
		erel.						
		<i>Bbls.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Massachusetts shore, gill-nets	432	.....	836,624	.....	1,923,500	.....	.....	.....
George's Bank	43	.....	1,015,000	11,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Banks	18	.....	200,000	541,800	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Banks, British *	1	.....	.....	52,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
La Have Bank	18	.....	677,000	47,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cape shore	1	.....	30,000	.....	.....	.....	10,000	.....
Brown's Bank	21	.....	674,000	6,300	.....	.....	.....	.....
New England shore	23	.....	12,000	.....	.....	113,000	83,000	18,500
Do	42	4,999	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gulf of Saint Lawrence	10	1,565	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small boats	.....	.....	83,800	.....	18,000	50,000	.....	8,000
Total	609	6,564	2,978,424	658,100	1,941,500	163,000	43,000	26,500

* Free of duty.

Other receipts: From Maine, 110 barrels of herring, 2,374 quintals of hake, 230 quintals of haddock; from Rhode Island, 900 barrels fish oil. Imports from the provinces: 1,950 quintals hake, 24 quintals pollock, 2,000 boxes smoked herring.

12.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN DECEMBER, 1885.

By W. A. WILCOX.

During most of the month the weather was unfavorable for fishing, there being high wind and sea and a succession of gales. The small amount of fishing that was attempted on George's Bank and off the New England coast was accompanied with severe and many losses to nearly all engaged. The gill-net fishermen have not been able to fish one-half of the time, and have suffered severely in the loss of nets. Receipts of the month have mostly been from La Have Bank, where codfish of fine size and quality have been abundant; and vessels from there were mostly outside of the severe gales, suffered but little, and arrived with good fares. Squid were found in great abundance on La Have Bank, furnishing plenty of the best of bait. This was very fortunate, as most of the weirs were damaged by storms or taken up, and little bait could be procured along the coast.

On December 7 a severe gale badly damaged weirs, nets, and all fishing property that was exposed. From December 25 to 27 the most severe gale for many years extended the entire length of our Atlantic

coast, as well as far inland. This is remembered as the "Christmas gale." The following fishing vessels and lives were lost: Schooners Cleopatra and four men, Racer, Adelia Hartwell, and Ivanhoe. Three men were lost from the schooner Lizzie Griffin and one from the Lillian Baxter. Total, 4 vessels and 8 men, from Gloucester. The Portland schooner Breeze and the Nova Scotia schooner S. E. Killam, and master, were also lost in the same gale.

All vessels that arrived for some time reported the roughest weather for many years, and most of them were more or less damaged. The Grand Banks halibut fleet were outside of the gale and arrived in good order. They experienced rough weather, arriving with small fares. During the month weir-fishing was finished until spring. On account of the many storms and much damage, it has not been very profitable. The ten weirs located near Provincetown report as follows: Put down April 20, taken up December 12, during which time they caught as follows:

Kind of fish.	Quantity.	Kind of fish.	Quantity.
Mackerel, cured	barrels.. 792	Cod, pollock, and hake	pounds.. 62, 800
Mackerel, sold fresh	do. 975	Bluefish	do. 1, 000
Herring, cured	do. 1, 075	Smelts	do. 5, 900
Herring, sold fresh	do. 3, 550	Eels	do. 2, 500
Squid	do. 1, 670	Flounders	do. 10, 000

Prices at the weirs averaged: herring, \$1.25 a barrel; squid, \$1 a barrel; smelt, 10 to 12 cents per pound; eels, 9 cents per pound.

During the month fleets have sailed on frozen-herring trips to Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, as follows:

Schooner Commonwealth sailed November 20; schooner Cecil H. Low, November 27; schooner Henri N. Woods, December 2; schooner Mystery, December 3; schooner Mary Fernald, December 3; schooner Gov. Butler, December 4; schooner Nellie M. Davis, December 4; schooner Mary E. McDonald, December 5; schooner Samuel V. Colby, December 5; schooner Spencer F. Baird, December 8; schooner Jennie Seaverns, December 8; schooner Herman E. Babson, December 9; schooner Edith S. Walen, December 10; schooner Centennial, December 11; schooner Laura Nelson, December 13; schooner Maggie and Lilly, December 14; schooner Electric Light, December 18; schooner William D. Daisley, December 19; schooner Warren J. Crosby, December 19; schooner Arthur D. Story, January 1, 1886. Total, 20 sail, all belonging to the port of Gloucester. No other vessels from the United States will go to Fortune Bay for herring this season.

The Eastport or Bay of Fundy herring fleet, from Gloucester, began to start on their trips on December 4, the following vessels having sailed during the month: Schooners Goldsmith Maid, Ada R. Terry, Volunteer, Argonaut, Annie E. Lane, Joseph Story, Margie Smith, William H. Foye, Porter S. Roberts, Frederick P. Frye, Hattie Evelyn,

Rattler, and E. W. Merchant; total, 13 sail. A number of vessels from Eastern ports will also engage in this branch of the business.

Very few herring have been taken during the month, the weather not having been cold enough for freezing; and vessels are delayed. The last reports from Fortune Bay were that the weather was very mild.

The demand for all kinds of fish has been very light all through the month, notwithstanding prices have been lower on all varieties than one year ago—a fact that may be noted that ever since the restoration of the duty at no time have prices been as high as of late years, when free of duty. This is largely accounted for from the great reduction and present low price of other leading provisions.

Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in December, 1885.

From—	Fares.	Codfish.	Halibut.	Haddock.	Hake.	Pollock.	Cusk.	Oil.
		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
La Have Bank.....	51	2,253,000	12,800	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Banks.....	20	87,000	492,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Banquereau.....	1	.....	25,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brown's Bank.....	2	38,000	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New England shore, netters.....	135	398,800	.....	.....	.....	22,150	.....	.....
New England shore, trawlers.....	85	90,500	.....	91,600	20,500	2,000	2,000	*500
Total.....	244	2,867,300	530,000	91,600	20,500	24,150	2,000	500

* From Tiverton, R. I.

43.—INSPECTION OF FISH AND OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

By CHAS. W. SMILEY.

For several years a careful inspection of the marine products brought into the District of Columbia has been made under the direction of the health officer of the District. By the courtesy of that officer, Dr. Smith Townshend, the Fish Commission has been permitted to compile annual tables which show the trade in fresh fish in this city. Tables for 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883 will be found on pages 2-6 of the Bulletin for 1884; for 1884 on page 105 of the Bulletin for 1885; and for 1885 on the following page. Following is a summary table of the results:

Kinds.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Oysters*.....	259,356	378,295	315,296	411,255	400,564	307,832	390,005
Terrapint.....	1,452	3,154	2,574	884	1,646	264	.....
Turtles†.....	454	501	117	116	95	126	55
Clams†.....	1,167,000	1,384,950	1,131,000	1,219,850	1,380,000	1,847,900	1,758,900
Crabs†.....	528,400	682,370	314,800	527,001	690,372	830,200	723,400
Shad†.....	311,585	320,799	458,368	350,292	201,478	231,111	125,458
Sturgeon†.....	1,200	1,178	1,289	1,904	1,673	1,588	1,174
Herring†.....	3,605,984	6,853,721	9,033,568	6,409,865	4,083,998	5,640,812	9,813,544
Bluefish†.....	248,295	871,988	196,853	224,040	243,025	228,420	209,330
Perch†.....	297,865	1,051,302	1,044,145	229,558	284,855	320,170	273,975
Catfish†.....	401,850	469,620	874,465	271,597	214,515	248,665	812,985
Rockfish†.....	148,215	406,138	395,370	334,865	274,800	340,400	300,915
Other fish†.....	294,427	619,622	218,512	283,046	383,775	478,085	336,904

* Bushels.

† Number.

‡ Pounds.